

Files Link CIA, Mafia In Castro Slaying Plot

By George Lardner Jr.
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The Rockefeller commission has been informed of FBI files that link the Mafia and the Central Intelligence Agency in a 1961 scheme to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, a well-placed source confirmed yesterday.

The Justice Department is expected to submit the documents to the commission shortly in connection with the panel's investigation of the CIA's clandestine domestic operations.

The New York Times, which first reported the existence of the file in yesterday's editions, said the file was brought to the commission's attention during secret testimony by a

former high official of the Justice Department in the Nixon administration.

The documents reportedly confirmed that the CIA was in touch with both Sam Giancana, a Chicago rackets figure, and John Roselli, an alleged Mafia figure, about killing Castro.

The file, however, was somewhat vague, one official told The Washington Post, concerning how far the scheme went.

There have been long-standing allegations that the CIA sponsored repeated attempts on Castro's life, including one unsuccessful effort as far back as late 1959 or early 1960.

Columnist Jack Anderson reported in a series of columns in 1971 that the CIA was involved in as many as six attempts to kill Castro, the last in the spring of 1963. The assassination teams, composed of Cuban exiles, were said to have been lined up by Roselli.

Roselli was said to have been recruited to work for the CIA by Robert A. Maheu, a former FBI agent and later manager of billionaire Howard Hughes' Las Vegas properties.

According to Anderson's columns, Roselli once called on Giancana to line up a contact, but the Chicago rackets chief reportedly took no direct part in the assassination scheming.

Subsequently, the CIA is said to have engineered a break-in of comedian Dan Rowan's Las Vegas hotel room as a favor to Giancana. The Mafia boss was reportedly upset over Rowan's friendship with singer Phyllis McGuire, whom Giancana frequently escorted.

LARDNER, George
CIA 7.02 Rockefeller
CIA 7.02 FBI
ORG 1 MAFIA
CIA 4.01 ASSASSINATION
CIA 1.04 Maheu, Robert